

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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## Cold Snap Breaks

**Agricultural Summary:** The cold snap of January continued into the first half of February, characterized by frigid temperatures and several snow storms. Stubble field utilization decreased from last month, as well as hay availability. During the latter half of February, temperatures warmed up and the snow began to melt. At the end of February, the average depth of **snow cover** across Iowa was 3 inches, compared to 5 inches last month and 1 inch at the same time last year. **Soil moisture availability** rated 4 percent very short, 33 percent short, 56 percent adequate, and 7 percent surplus across Iowa. Shortness of soil moisture remained a concern.

**Field Crops Report:** **Grain movement** from farm to elevator was rated 18 percent none, 33 percent light, 41 percent moderate, and 8 percent heavy.

**Livestock, Pasture, and Range Report:** **Hog and pig losses** in February were higher than last year at 13 percent below average, 84 percent average, and 3 percent above average. **Cattle and calf losses** were lower than last year at 14 percent below average, 80 percent average, and 6 percent above average. Calving is well underway.

## Preliminary Iowa Monthly Weather Summary -February 2004-

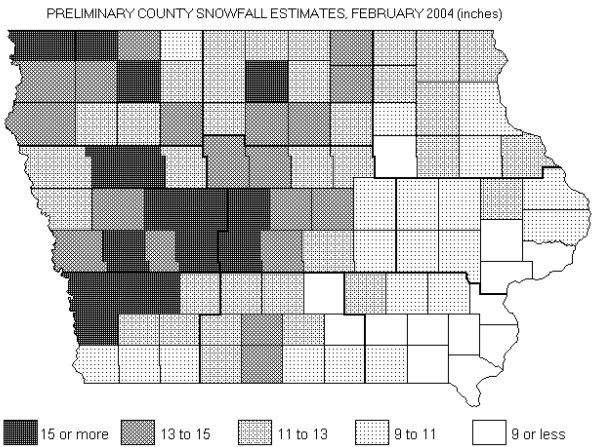
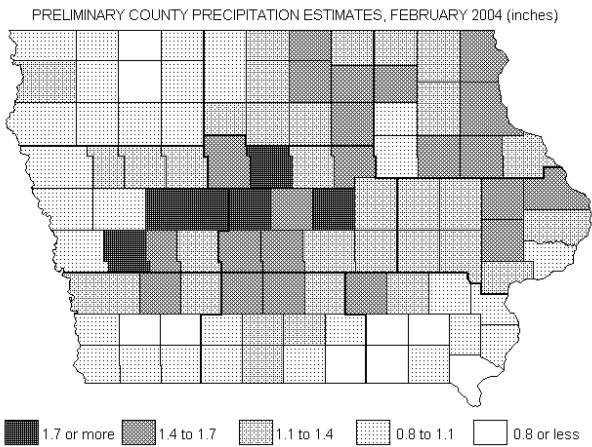
**General Summary:** February temperatures averaged 23.1 degrees or 1.1 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 1.21 inches or 0.23 inches above normal. This ranks as the 66th warmest and 44th wettest February among 132 years of state records.

**Temperatures:** February began with colder than normal weather prevailing on 15 of the first 17 days of the month. The month's lowest temperatures were -17 degree readings reported at Spencer and Sanborn on the 3rd and again at

Atlantic, Guthrie Center and Osceola on the 7th. The month's lowest wind chill reading was -33 degrees at Spencer on the morning of the 3rd. The last 12 days of the month were all warmer than normal with no subzero temperatures recorded after the 17th. Burlington reported the warmest temperature with a 62 degrees reading on the 29th.

**Heating Degree Days:** Home heating requirements, as estimated by heating degree day totals, averaged 6 percent greater than normal and 4 percent less than last February. Heating degree day totals so far this winter season (since July 1, 2003) are running 3 percent less than normal as well as 3 percent less than last season at this time.

**Precipitation:** Large snow storms struck the state on the 1st-2nd and the 4th-6th. Both storms dropped an average of 5.9 inches of snow statewide. This, combined with another large storm on January 25th-27th, produced a statewide average of 18.3 inches of snow in just 13 days. The first February storm dropped 8 to 10 inches of snow across a wide area from southwest into north central Iowa, as well as a coating of freezing rain on the morning of the 2nd in southeast Iowa. The second February storm dumped the greatest amount of snow in south central Iowa where Osceola recorded 10.2 inches. Snow cover peaked at an average depth of 14.9 inches on February 6. At that time, snow depth varied from 7 inches at Fairfield up to 28 inches at Perry. A greater snowpack had not been recorded in Iowa since the winter of 2000-2001 when the statewide average snow depth peaked at 16.3 inches on December 31, 2000. However, an average of only 0.3 inches of snow fell after the 6th. This brought the monthly snow total to 12.1 inches or nearly double the February normal of 6.3 inches. This was the ninth snowiest February among 117 years of record and snowiest of any month since December 2000. Almost all of the snow cover had melted by month's end with only some patchy snow cover remaining in northwest Iowa.



## Snow Cover and Frost Penetration for the month of February

Item	Districts									State	Last Month	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inches</i>
Snow cover	8	4	2	5	3	1	1	1	0	3	5	1
Frost penetration	20	16	15	13	10	9	8	8	6	12	15	17

February Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc.											
STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION			HDD TOT	HDD DFN	DAYS OF 32 COLD	DAYS OF 28 COLD
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS				
Estherville Sioux Center Spencer Spirit Lake	North West District										
	45	-11	19	2	0.73	-0.08	8	1,314	-55	28	23
	48	-11	21	-1	1.36	0.63	5	1,268	11	27	23
	45	-14	20	0	0.88	0.15	6	1,288	-18	26	23
	45	-11	19	3	0.70	-0.06	5	1,322	156	28	26
Britt Humboldt Mason City Northwood	North Central District										
	47	-10	18	-3	1.24	0.29	6	1,367	75	28	26
	49	-8	20	-3	1.23	0.40	6	1,311	32	28	24
	47	-11	20	2	1.33	0.43	6	1,292	-47	28	23
	48	-10	19	3	1.80	1.00	8	1,324	-60	28	24
Decorah Dubuque Elkader Independence Waterloo	North East District										
	51	-12	22	2	1.41	0.55	11	1,228	-53	29	25
	51	-5	24	3	1.23	-0.16	7	1,187	-80	26	23
	52	-10	21	-1	1.48	0.26	6	1,258	146	29	26
	52	-13	21	1	1.72	0.53	8	1,272	132	28	25
Waterloo	53	-7	23	3	1.16	0.03	7	1,213	-86	25	23
	West Central District										
	51	-13	20	-6	1.65	0.66	6	1,303	134	28	24
	49	-9	20	-3	1.78	0.93	7	1,286	48	28	25
	52	-8	21	-5	0.60	-0.06	5	1,276	-9	27	24
Guthrie Center Harlan Jefferson Logan Rockwell City Sioux City	53	-17	21	-3	1.26	0.15	6	1,276	67	28	23
	52	-7	20	-5	1.77	0.93	7	1,282	33	27	23
	53	-8	21	-2	1.72	0.87	8	1,265	27	28	24
	54	-15	22	-4	1.11	0.26	6	1,256	78	26	24
	49	-10	19	-4	1.21	0.47	5	1,320	106	29	24
Sioux City	52	-8	22	-2	0.76	0.01	7	1,237	39	25	22
	Central District										
	54	-14	22	2	1.18	0.20	8	1,233	-39	27	21
	55	-9	22	-2	2.15	1.04	10	1,246	15	29	24
	58	-4	26	2	0.99	-0.17	9	1,133	-32	26	19
Eldora Marshalltown Newton Perry Toledo	52	-5	21	0	1.53	0.54	8	1,255	-20	28	23
	55	-9	23	1	1.13	0.01	6	1,221	-17	26	23
	55	-10	22	-3	1.42	0.33	8	1,247	62	28	23
	54	-10	21	-2	1.91	1.06	9	1,267	21	29	23
	54	-8	22	0	0.83	-0.15	7	1,255	-8	28	23
Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	East Central District										
	55	-5	24	2	1.17	0.10	6	1,175	-39	25	23
	54	-7	26	2	0.99	0.00	8	1,122	-44	24	22
	56	-1	26	0	1.17	0.16	7	1,128	-1	26	22
	55	-10	22	1	1.44	0.07	8	1,227	15	29	27
Maquoketa Muscatine	53	-11	22	1	1.47	0.36	7	1,242	-14	29	28
	55	-10	25	-2	1.11	-0.02	8	1,146	-140	25	22
	South West District										
	57	-15	23	-3	0.61	-0.36	3	1,213	64	26	24
	55	-10	23	-3	0.93	0.10	5	1,198	73	26	22
Clarinda Glenwood Oakland Red Oak Sidney	55	-6	22	-2	1.33	0.48	8	1,231	31	27	22
	57	-12	24	-4	0.78	-0.28	7	1,176	75	26	23
	57	-3	24	-4	0.75	-0.14	3	1,179	73	26	22
	South Central District										
	58	-7	24	-2	0.90	-0.12	6	1,186	-201	27	22
Allerton Beaconsfield Chariton Indianola Leon	55	-6	23	-2	0.86	0.06	4	1,204	41	27	21
	57	-5	24	0	1.13	0.03	9	1,178	8	27	23
	56	-8	25	-1	1.70	0.63	9	1,164	9	27	20
	57	-3	25	1	1.26	0.22	8	1,141	-14	27	22
	South East District										
Bloomfield Burlington Ottumwa	59	-7	25	-3	0.65	-0.40	5	1,150	70	26	22
	58	1	28	2	0.75	-0.47	8	1,061	-44	22	21
	58	-6	26	0	0.46	-0.50	5	1,116	-11	24	20
Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.											

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